Financial assistance for Tourism Sector in Assam

2079. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects and financial assistance sanctioned, released and utilised for development of tourism sector during the last three years in the State of Assam;

(b) the details of achievements made so far in this regard; and

(c) what are the new projects formulated for the development in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Financial assistance provided by the Department of Tourism, Government of India for tourism related projects during last three years and achievements thereof are as under:—

Year	No. of projects sanctioned	No. of projects completed	Amount sanctioned (Rupees in lakhs)
1999-2000	15	1	357.35
2000-2001	12	1	338.35
2001-2002	7	2	397.50

Remaining projects are in various stages of implementation.

(c) Department of Tourism, Government of India has identified following tourism circuit in the NE Region for integrated development:

Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

Besides it is proposed to develop a major tourist destination each year during the 10th Plan.

Development of tourism circuits in Orissa

2080. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a new scheme to identify tourism circuits across the country and develop them to international standards;

(b) if so, the details of tourism circuits identified so far in Orissa for development; and

(c) by when work on the identified circuits is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) During the 10th Five Year Plan the Department of Tourism proposes to identify six tourism circuits in the country annually and develop the facilities in these circuits to international standards. During the current year following six circuits have been identified for development in consultation with the State Governments:

(i) Eastern Region—(Buddhist Circuit): Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi.

(ii) Northern Region—(Himalayan Circuit):

Route I—Chandigarh-Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Rohtang La-Key Long-Sarchu-Upshi-Leh.

Route II—Shimla-Sangla-Kaza-Chatru-Keylong-Sarchu-Yashi-Leh.

(iii) Central Circuit—(Heritage, Nature & Wildlife Circuit): Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-Bhopal-Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas-Bhimbetka-Pachamarhi-Kanha Jabalpur (Bhedaghat).

(iv) Western Circuit—(Konkan Riviera circuit): Bombay-Alibagh (Mandva)-Muradjanjira-Ganapatipule-Vijaydurg-Mithibad-Kunkeshwar-Mochetmad-Sindhudurg-Tarkarli-Shiroda-Savantwadi-Amboli-Goa-Coastal Karnataka-Bekal.

(v) Southern Circuit—(Backwater and Beach Circuit): Cochin-Kumarakom-(Backwaters)-Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum (Kovalam).

(vi) North-East Circuit—(Eco-Tourism Circuit): Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

Development of tourism in Arunachal Pradesh

2081. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state: